

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are canceled without prejudice.

With respect to the Office Action, at page 2, paragraph 1, Applicant provides the following serial numbers for the now abandoned applications (1) and (2) identified in the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 13, 2001:

(1) 09/789,808 (Attorney Docket No.: Q62796) filed February 22, 2001

(2) 09/791,562 (Attorney Docket No.: Q63087) filed February 26, 2001

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a) based on Brent'358, Mermelstein'923 and/or Ulvinen'305, insofar as those rejections may be applied to the new claims 11 (see specification pages 5-6) and 12.

The claimed invention is directed to solving a very specific problem of switching between terminals of a telecommunications system having both "old" terminals (without a preprocessing unit) and "novel" terminals (with a preprocessing unit).

Applicant's claimed invention solves this problem by providing, between each old terminal and a switch coupled to a final processing unit, another preprocessing unit so that the switch can switch terminals in a manner which is independent of whether a terminal is an old terminal or a novel terminal.

Neither the specific problem nor the Applicant's claimed solution thereof is disclosed, either expressly or inherently, or even remotely suggested by the prior art references cited by the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Appln. No.: 09/760,794

Attorney Docket No.: Q62127

Examiner in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a), whereby Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with new claims 11 and 12, as these claims are not readable, either expressly or inherently, on Brent's disclosure which merely describes an operation for bypassing existing vocoders under certain operating conditions of a telecommunication network. Because of this deficiency of Brent, and because of the cancellation of claims 4, 8 and 5, 9, the disclosures of Mermelstein and Ulvinen now are irrelevant to the subject matter of the new claims 11 and 12.

If Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

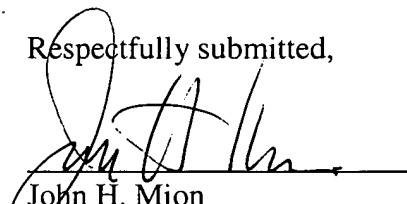
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,

  
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